

ROYAL BOROUGH OF WINDSOR AND MAIDENHEAD

LOCAL ACCESS FORUM DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT 2017 – 2018

www.rbwm.gov.uk



Activities of the forum

Milestones Statement, and targets for the coming year

The forum was consulted on the Milestones Statement and Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan Annual Report 2018-2019 and recommended that the targets and priorities are retained for the coming year. These recommendations were reported to the Rights of Way and Highways Licensing Panel in March 2018 and formed the basis of the targets for the coming year.

Opportunities with identified large development sites

The forum discussed future developments that were on the horizon in the Borough, in particular large developments planned at Maidenhead Golf Course and potential opportunities for access improvements. In 2017-18 LAF working group meeting was held to discuss the sites in borough local plan. A planning position statement has since been drafted and approved by LAF. It has been sent to the planning department at RBWM as well.

M4 Smart motorway

The forum has been involved with the M4 Smart motorway proposal and has requested that improvements are made to the Marsh Lane bridge for horse riding and cycling use. The forum continues to monitor the progress of this scheme as it progresses through the necessary planning stages to seek these improvements.

Detail design is in progress, further discussions can be done when detailed design is submitted.

Multi-user routes and Horse Riding improvements

The forum has continued to be involved with the creation of a multi-user route from Eton Wick to Dorney and has worked closely with Slough and Bucks Local Access Forums to take the project forward with the Environment Agency. Bucks have declined to proceed with this further due to issues which this would raise with claims and insurance.

The Forum also considered reports regarding horse riding access to Ashley Hill and approaches have been made to the Forestry Commission on the forum's recommendation to request horse riding access as Ashley Hill. Sharon Wootton from RBWM will look into it further.

Disabled Access and Public Rights of Way

The forum discussed disabled access issues on public rights of way, in particular how to gather access information at the same time as the normal path inspections, and a trial system has in put in place to capture this information. Borough is committed to creating accessible public spaces and any new works done will be looking into creating disabled access.

Volunteer Works

The forum continued to monitor the volunteer works that are carried out on the public rights of way network, and wrote to all local groups to thank them for their efforts.

Fostering closer engagement with Parish Councils

The forum formed a working party to examine ways to foster closer engagement with Parish Councils, and suggested that initially Parish Council should be kept more involved with the activities of the Local Access Forum by extending invites to Parish Councils for joint site visits and sharing the minutes of the LAF.

In addition to this the group suggested that Parish Councils may be able to help resolve issues in their area due to their local knowledge and contacts. The Parish Councils added to the LAF circulation list.

Links with other local, regional and national groups

The forum has remained active over the past year in improving and maintaining its links with neighbouring Local Access Forums and has continued to host meetings of neighbouring Local Access Forum chairs to discuss cross boundary issues and ways that the local forums can work together.

RBWM hosted the LAF Chairs meeting in 2017-2018 on 21st Sep 2017. Bracknell forest hosted the 2018 LAF Chairs meeting in Jan 2018. Peter Thorn was in attendance.

Janice Bridger of Mid & West Berks had suggested Wokingham as the venue for the next meeting.

Other issues that the forum has discussed during 2017-2018:

- Volunteer works
- Millennium Walk
- Access and Brexit
- National Trust Right of Way plan

Looking forward

To be decided at 11th June 2018 meeting

Meetings of the Forum

The Local Access Forum meetings for 2017-2018 were as follows:

Formal meetings

- 14th June 2017
- 1th November 2017

Informal meetings

- 21st September 2017 – LAF Working Group meeting to discuss large scale developments in borough local plan.
- 21st September 2017 – LAF Chairs meeting.
- 18th October 2017 - LAF Working Group meeting to discuss large scale developments in borough local plan.
- 23rd Jan 2018 – Local LAF Chairs meeting

Membership of the Forum

The forum is expected to achieve a reasonable balance of members’ interests. The current membership of the Local Access Forum is listed below.

Name	Representing	Other interests
Cllr. Malcolm Beer	Walking / Cycling	Walking; Cycling; Caravanning;; Rights of Way; Old Windsor Parish Councillor
Sara Church	Horse riding	
James Copas	Land and estate management	
Margaret Cubley	Walking and open spaces	Campaign for the Protection of Rural England, Bisham Parish Councillor
Christine Gadd	Rights of Way; Walking; Cycling	
Steve Gillions	Walking	East Berks Ramblers
Lisa Hughes	Disability access	
Cllr. Maureen Hunt	RBWM Councillor	Chair of Rights of Way and Highways Licensing Panel
Tom Jarvis	Land and estate management	Crown Estate
Alan Keene	Land and estate management	Bisham Parish Council, countryside, rights of way, farming and land management,
Cllr. Asghar Majeed	RBWM Councillor	
Geoff Priest	Open countryside, access for younger users	Hurley Parish Council
Katie Sarsfield	Rights of way	Waltham St Lawrence Parish Council
TBC	Land and Estate Management	National Trust

Finances

			Total Cost (£)
Meeting expenses			
	Meeting refreshments	200	
			200
Members' Expenses:			
	Dependent Care	-	-
	Travel / Mileage	-	-
	Other Expenses	-	-
Grand Total			200

Note: The costs above do not include overheads such as Officer time or printing costs

How to get involved

For more information about the Local Access Forum and how you can get involved, visit the Local Access Forum web pages at https://www3.rbwm.gov.uk/info/200938/local_access_forums , or contact Andrew Fletcher, Public Rights of Way Officer on (01628) 796122 or email andrew.fletcher@rbwm.gov.uk or prow@rbwm.gov.uk